



CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

May 2, 2006

Ms. Janice Haith
Acting Director, Defense Security Service
U.S. Department of Defense
1340 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314-1651

Dear Ms. Haith:

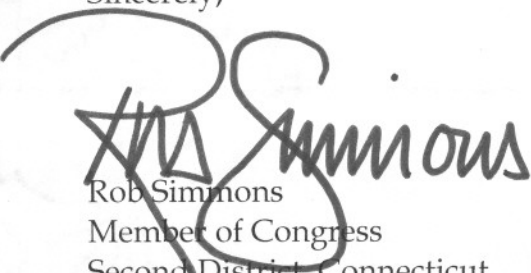
It is my understanding that the Department of Defense (DOD) stopped processing security clearances for government contractors this week.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked tirelessly on the federal government's security clearance process. I represent thousands of workers at General Dynamic's Electric Boat, a critical defense industrial base asset whose successful operations depend on security clearances for its employees.

I strongly opposed the decision to transfer the function of conducting background investigations from DOD to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) because I was unconvinced that the move would not make an already bad situation worse. In fact, twice in 2004 I met with Carol Haave and Heather Anderson to express my opposition to the DOD-OPM transfer. These officials repeatedly assured me that the transfer of investigative function would improve the existing system. Instead, the transfer appears to have brought a slow and inefficient system to a full stop.

A moratorium on processing security clearances is unacceptable; it undermines national security interests and critical defense industrial base assets, like the Electric Boat Corporation. I would like a meeting with you to discuss DSS plans to resolve this problem. Should you have any questions about this request, you may contact my Military Legislative Assistant, Justin Bernier, at (202) 225-2076. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut

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